

Old Town Hall Vaults - Whitchurch



Eight of us gathered in the bus stop at **Two Mills** and set off behind **John F** towards **Whitchurch**. **Mari** has sent me, via **John**, the attached great photo of some of us waiting for the ride to start! **John** had, as always, chosen an excellent route and

provided perfect weather for riding.

We had a café stop at the **Venetian Marina**. Unfortunately the proprietor was ill in bed and the café closed, but the shop next door was more than adequate and we sat by the canal enjoying an ice cream in the sunshine. Soon we were speeding on and in no time reached **Whitchurch** where we were welcomed at the **Old Town Vaults**. The room we sat in is described thus:

"The family had their front room also on the ground floor, on February 17th 1862 German Edward Jones was born in this room and would achieve fame and fortune as one of the nation's foremost composers, Sir Edward German."

Ever heard of him? We hadn't!

John lead a **Two Mills** ride to this same pub a few weeks ago and by the time he came to have his sandwiches the others had eaten most of them so he asked for more this time. The pub seemed to see this as a challenge because they provided

four very large platters of sandwiches and two of chips between the six of us having lunch. We only ate about 1/3rd of them!

Refuelled, we sped on, and diverted to Holt for another café stop at Cleopatra's. I think it was around here that we discussed how Harry and Sue had done 100 miles on the Two Mills ride to Whitchurch and I said I would like to do that this time. Liz quickly said if I was, then she was too - so the challenge was on. I took a little diversion through Aldford to add an extra mile and when I got to the bridge slipped seamlessly into the peleton (well - in my imagination). I didn't realise that Helen and Mari had followed me, and by so doing had moved from being at the front to being at the back without John, now being back marker, being aware. He assured us all they were in front and we sped on trying to catch them. They meanwhile had reached Aldford bridge and had stopped to wait for us... Eventually we all came back together in Chester and made our various ways home.

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I think there was also a shorter ride from Two Mills bus stop at 10.00am. but I don't know where they got to.

Chris Smith